



*International Institute for Religious Freedom*

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## **Audit Statement on the outcomes of the Open Doors World Watch List 2023**

Thursday, 12 January, 2023

*Audit Coordinator: Dr Dennis P. Petri (International Director, IIRF)*

The audit of the 2023 edition of the World Watch List (WWL) of Open Doors, which is conducted annually by the International Institute for Religious Freedom (IIRF), has confirmed that the World Watch Research team has upheld the quality standards of the previous years.

The audit consisted of two parts. In the first, the team of auditors assessed whether the WWL methodology was applied correctly. We found that the WWL 2023 complies with all its methodological requirements, is based on a broad range of sources, and its conclusions are duly substantiated. It should be noted that the degree of certainty of each country score always depends on the depth and quality of the information received in the reporting period; and that this may vary from country to country.

In the second part of the audit, a determination was made as to whether the scores and write-ups adequately reflected the situation in the country, based on the knowledge and experience of the auditors. We concluded that, overall, the WWL 2023 provides an accurate, balanced, and detailed account of the discrimination and persecution of Christians in the world.

The IIRF team of auditors comprised six high level academics from different disciplines and nationalities. They each have active expertise on religious freedom in the countries and regions they audited.



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The six countries selected for the audit were carefully chosen from the Top 50 of the WWL. None of these countries had been subject to audits in previous years. We also made sure that the work of all members of the World Watch Research team was audited.

The materials included in the audit were the final questionnaires for the countries considered, the accompanying country dossiers, and any additional information provided by the researchers of World Watch Research. Additional statements, documents, or interpretations by Open Doors International or the Open Doors national affiliates based on or associated with the publication of the WWL 2023 remain outside the scope of this audit statement.

A detailed audit report has been submitted to World Watch Research with recommendations for potential future improvements and will be discussed with the members of the research team.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dennis P. Petri', is written over a faint, light blue circular stamp or watermark.

Dr. Dennis P. Petri

International Director of the IIRF